



OLD CASTLE GARDEN ABOUT 1853

No picture in New York is in such constant demand as a view of Old Castle Garden. Thousands of men and women all over this country have told their children about their first coming to this country, and Castle Garden in this way has become known to countless thousands.

Our view shows it about 1853 while it was still the most popular place of entertainment in the city. It was originally built as a Fort in the War of 1812. Here Jenny Lind made her first appearance under P. T. Barnum. It is now the Aquarium.

We have ruthlessly destroyed old historic buildings in the past like Federal Hall in Wall Street where Washington was inaugurated. The MANUAL hopes to prevent this in the future.

VALENTINE'S MANUAL
15 EAST 40TH ST., NEW YORK

HENRY COLLINS BROWN, *Editor*

MURRAY HILL 5948

Dear Sir:

First, I want to thank you for your past support of the *Manual*. The revival of this important publication was no small undertaking, but with your help and that of other old New Yorkers, I have been able to carry on for ten years.

Established in 1816 as the *City Hall Directory*, enlarged in 1840 and called the *Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York*, edited by D. T. Valentine, Clerk of the Common Council; discontinued in 1870 as a City publication and revived in 1916 by a group of staunch New Yorkers, the *Manual* has for more than half a century been the recognized authority on all matters pertaining to the annals of Old New York.

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A periodical of this kind, while very necessary to our cultural life, is more or less a public service. As a business venture, it cannot be commended. Its rare and expensive pictures, its large number of costly and hitherto unknown prints (which have been continued) would have been originally impossible had not the opulent City of New York paid the bills. But another way has developed to insure its continuance.

The interest in the present publication has from the first been highly gratifying. The huge losses inseparable from its early issues have now been largely overcome. The present pronounced renaissance of Old New York everywhere in evidence; the growth of civic pride and the greater interest in matters pertaining to our past, are, we like to think, largely due to the influence of the *Manual*. And of still greater importance, it has made it possible to translate this sentiment into something of permanent good to the City of New York, by the establishment of a Museum devoted wholly to the collection and preservation of its more intimate personal history, similar to the Carnavalet in Paris and the London Museum. In this movement we have had the support and co-operation of our local Government.

The City, acting through the Legislature, has provided the Gracie Mansion at the foot of Eighty-eighth Street, East River, as a home for the Museum. It was not difficult to organize a corporation for its operation. The Museum of the City of New York has behind it a powerful group of old New Yorkers; Mr. Archer M. Huntington, Mrs. Andrew Carnegie, Mrs. John Stewart Kennedy and others being among its Founders. They paid me the compliment of electing me Director for the first year, and have adopted the *Manual* as the official Year Book of the Museum. In this manner, as a semi-official publication of the great City of New York, the *Manual* resumes in a measure its original status.

Before this new and greater work is undertaken by me, I would like to be free of the debts which hold over as souvenirs of those devastating early years of the *Manual's* publication. If all the back numbers that have accumulated during the past ten years could be sold every obligation could be discharged. I am willing to cut the price to do so, although the back numbers are more valuable now than when first issued. The numbers from 1 to 8 inclusive are available for \$25 instead of \$40.

The *Manual* was not published for everybody. A certain number among us are keenly interested in the City. These are the persons I hope to reach. They will understand the value of the *Manual* and the consuming work ahead. I feel sure that they will be glad to come forward at this time, and not only buy the *Manual*, but join the Museum as well.

In my efforts to keep the *Manual* afloat I published a few other books on New York of a more general nature. You may deduct 20% from the list price of any of those you want, as I am disposing of them, too.

I am glad to send the *Manual* on approval to any friend who would like to look it over carefully before admitting the set to the library.

Thanking you for any co-operation you may give, I am

Faithfully yours,

HENRY COLLINS BROWN,
Editor.

15 EAST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK
Murray Hill 5948

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"I pray you let us satisfy our eyes—
With the memorials and the things of fame
That do renoun this city"

—SHAKESPEARE



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GRACIE MANSION, HOME OF THE MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

The Museum of the City of New York has been established in response to an almost universal longing among our people, for some place in which to preserve the annals and records of their own home town.

The old swimmin' hole; the little wooden school-house on the hill; the lumbering stages that used to run from one village to the other in Old New York, have so completely disappeared that they seem never to have existed. All have been swallowed up by the great City. How nice it would be if we only had some pictures or mementos to remind us of these by-gone years!

The MUSEUM is for *all* New Yorkers. The privilege of being born here is vouchsafed to but few mortals—it is a gift of the gods. Let us all join the Museum and sit in glory with the angels.

The City has shown its appreciation of this movement by providing the old Gracie Mansion as a permanent home. It may also in its discretion appropriate money for its upkeep. It has already helped us materially in renovating and redecorating the interior.

Membership in the Museum is classified as follows. Regular members \$10.00 per annum. We want a lot of these. Each regular member receives a copy of the *Manual* each year (our official publication), one ticket for lectures, etc.

Sustaining members, \$25.00 per year; Life members, \$100.00; Fellows, \$250.00; Founders, \$1,000; Benefactors, \$5,000. There is abundant opportunity for service to the City in membership in the Museum.

A series of illustrated lectures on the rise and progress of New York will be a special feature. Write us for particulars regarding these lectures for clubs, churches, etc.

Both London and Paris have institutions of this kind and they are flourishing. Our Museum has been established in response to a similar sentiment which is daily becoming more insistent. We seem to have met a genuine want and much interest has been displayed in the venture. The official opening will be in November. Watch the papers for articles from time to time.